

REMARKS

Claims 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Soane. Independent claim 21 has been amended to indicate that negatively and positively charged particles can be simultaneously focused along the length of a first channel. The negatively charged particles are to focus in the first channel in one direction and the positively charged particles are to focus in the first channel in the opposite direction. Soane teaches no such thing. *See, e.g.*, columns 9-10; Figure 2. Thus, claim 21 and claims dependent thereon are patentably distinguished over Soane.

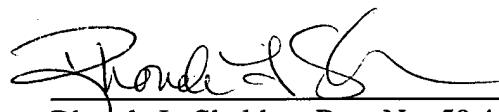
For at least the same reasons, amended claim 31 and claims dependent thereon and new claims 34-39 are also patentable over Soane.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0843US).

Respectfully submitted,

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